

Film Term:	Definition:	Why Used?	Example:
<b><u>Shots:</u></b>			
1. Long Shot (LS)	a shot taken from some distance; shows the full subject and perhaps the surrounding scene as well	Used to establish a shot. To reinforce a sense of place. (WC)	<a href="#">The Color Purple</a>  <a href="#">Unforgiven</a> (WC)  <a href="#">Star Wars: A New Hope</a> (1:07, Approaching the Death Star)
2. Establishing Shot (ES)	sets the scene or shows the space of a scene; often a long shot or series of shots	Helps to give the viewer an impression of the location, can give information or add emotion to a scene	This is the trailer for "The Sound of Music". In this film, the director, Robert Wise, often utilizes the long shot or a series of shots to establish shot/scene.  <a href="#">"The Sound of Music" Trailer</a>  The first 30 seconds of this scene from <a href="#">Casino Royale</a> establishes a sense of an exotic, energetic, dangerous place. (WC)
3. Close-up (CS)	the image being shot takes up at least 80 percent of the frame. There is also the extreme close-up that would show one part of the body or a portion of an object	Focuses attention on the specific thing the Director wants -- usually to make a point or build visual tension. (WC)	This scene from the godfather uses close-up to show the viewer the feelings and inner turmoil of the characters, especially Michael.  <a href="#">The Godfather Michael Kills Sollozzo scene</a> (WC)
4. Medium Shot (MS)	in-between LS and CS; people are seen from the waist up	Works well to show facial expressions and body language at the same time.	The Royal Tenenbaums- Cast of Characters <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4QHTdj7SKc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4QHTdj7SKc</a>  Kids in the Hall - Mushroom Boy Monologue

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1WE7062R54>

## **Focus:**

5. [[#|Soft focus]]      when a director intentionally puts his or her object slightly [[#|out of focus]] to make the image look softer or unclear      Often used in romantic films; classical film actresses often requested soft focus.      [Little Women](#)  
Zoolander Interview  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_qI9fu8sZQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_qI9fu8sZQ)  
Insect Example  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vcQIM2vGEQ>
6. Rack focus      when a director shifts the focus from one object to another in the same shot in order to direct the audience's attention      A way to feature a change in relationships or [[#|power]].  
—  
It draws the attention of the audience to a particular object. (JG)  
A focus technique used by filmmakers to bring either the background or foreground into focus. (JG)  
[WALL E \(JG\)](#)  
<http://youtu.be/QHH3iSeDBLo>  
Glass and Fridge Example  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf92X\\_c6og](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf92X_c6og)  
Rack Focus Fence  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzC0Ek6X5FY>
7. [[#|Deep focus]]      when the foreground and background are equally in focus      Shows relationships between objects and the characters.  
—  
It gives a greater sense of reality--more info is available to the audience. (JG)  
Another focus technique. Here all objects in the foreground and background are in focus.(JG)  
The camera retains focus      This allows viewers to scan the whole scene and focus on any part of it.      [Citizen Kane](#)  
—  
[Chinatown \(JG\)](#)  
<http://youtu.be/3aifeXlnoqY>  
Below is a link to a photo that shows deep focus  
[23.jpg](#)

from the foreground to the background. (CD)

Below is a link to a photo from *Best Years of Our Lives* (1946). The [\[\[#phone\]\]](#) call in the background, as well as the reaction of a character in the foreground, are key dramatic elements in the film. Cameraman Greg Toland, who also filmed *Citizen Kane*, was a master at deep-focus cinematography. (CD) [Best\\_Years\\_of\\_Our\\_Lives\\_01\\_bar.jpg](#)

## [[#Camera]] Angles:

### 8. Low angle (LA)

[camera](#) shoots subject from below

The camera is positioned below the subject. (CD)

has the effect of making the subject look *larger* than normal--strong,

powerful, threatening

It forces the viewer to look up; it makes the subject appear more imposing (more intimidating or more heroic, depending on the context).(CD)

Much of *Beast of the Southern Wild* was filmed at waist level, in order to keep the film in the character Hushpuppy's perspective. In the scene below, low camera angles are used to make the adults in the film appear big and strong, allowing the audience to empathize with the child.

[//Beast of the Southern Wild//, Beast It Scene](#)

The low-angle setup was dominant in Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane* (below) to suggest the power and imposing presence of the protagonist. Because of his frequent use of the low angle, Welles had to create ceilings on his sets, which was an unusual feature. (CD) [Citizen Kane](#)

9. High angle (HA)      [camera](#) is above the subject  
The camera is positioned above the subject. (CD)
- has the effect of making the subject look *smaller* than normal--weak, powerless, trapped  
It makes the subject appear small, weak, and vulnerable. (CD)
- [The Matrix, Interrogation Scene](#)  
In the clip below from the film *127 Hours*, high angles can be seen starting at 0:36  
[127 Hours](#)  
Below is a clip from *Housing Problems*, the 1935 film cited in our text as an example of the expository mode. The high-angle filming emphasizes the disparity between filmmaker and subject and reinforces the "victim identity" of the people being interviewed. (CD)  
[Housing Problems](#)
10. [[#Eye level]] (EL)      camera is even with the key character's eyes  
The camera is level or looking straight on with the subject. (CD)
- accounts for 90-95% of the shots seen because it is the most "natural"  
This angle calls less attention to the camera's presence and may make the viewers feel they are in the same space as the subject. (CD)
- Most of this scene from "The Office" employs an eye level camera angle. It also uses a slightly high angle at times.  
["The Office" Morse Code](#)  
Another example of eye level shots can be seen in the clip below from *The Shinning*  
[The Shinning](#)  
The scene below is from *Psycho*. Looking straight at the character's face and hearing her thoughts, we feel we are right there with her as she drives toward the Bates Motel. (CD)  
[Psycho](#)

11. Dutch angle (aka, "canted" angle)      shot that is tilted sideways used to add tension to a static frame; creates a sinister or distorted view of a character      [Batman screen shot](#)

## Sound

12. Diegetic      sound that could be heard logically by the characters within the film; can also be "internal diegetic", meaning that the sound can be heard only within the *mind* of one character      emphasizes the reality of the scene; makes it more natural      <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPYqRaOm1ak&feature=relmfu> Mean Girls  
'Deliverance'
13. Non-diegetic      sound that could not be heard by characters; sound given directly to the audience by the director      This is used to change or emphasize a mood for a scene, it can be used to make something normal scary as hell (Psycho) or make a scene even more touching (end of the Return of the King).      <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-PnGRaJaSA>  
This is from Psycho and is a great example of non-diegetic music, notice how with the music the scenes becomes much more creepy and stressful than without it.  
'Jaws' attack

## Lighting:

14. Low-key      scene is flooded with shadows and darkness      creates suspense and suspicion      <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYmMagkfjfl> - cell block tango \_ Chicago  
'The List is Life' clip from Schindler's List
15. High-key      scene is flooded with light creates bright and open-looking scene      [Matrix Reloaded, Welcome Home](#)  
[Fountain scene from Atonement](#)
16. Neutral      neither bright, nor dark -- even lighting throughout      Used to give a "same old-same old" feeling in      <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yshUmxuEjE>

	the shot	the scene which can be used to trick viewers into thinking something is normal or can be used to give some relief from an otherwise tense and action-packed film, often used in TV shows.	This is the scene from Inception where Cobb shows Ariadne how to build dreams, it looks like an unassuming enough scene because of the lighting, but we know better...
			<a href="#">Mad Men office party</a>  The neutral lighting in this scene makes the rather shocking (and grotesque!) ending that much more of a surprise.
17. Bottom/side	direct lighting from below or from one side	often dangerous or evil-looking; may convey a split personality or moral ambiguity	<a href="#">4 Little Girls</a> , when around 34:00, the light that they show George Wallace in, clips and interviews the lighting is from the side and mainly depicts him as an evil person.
18. Front/rear	soft, direct lighting on face or back of subject	may suggest innocence, create a " <a href="#">halo</a> " effect	This scene from "Amelie" has quite a few interesting light choices, but frequently uses a front natural lighting.  <a href="#">Amelie as a little girl</a>  <a href="#">Jihad for Love</a> In this 10 minute clip of it, the main interviewee discusses how he knew he was different from other males, the camera has a front/rear focus on him through out this clip.

## Camera Movement:

- |          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| 19. Pan  | stationary camera moves<br>left or right | <p><a href="#"><u>Children of Hiroshima (1952, Kaneto Shindo)</u></a><br/>[the first shot of this scene is a pan shot showing what is left of Hiroshima after the bombing. I could have chosen a more interesting example but I'm always looking for opportunities to recommend this amazing film so I thought I'd plug it in here. In my opinion Children of Hiroshima is one of the most significant anti-war films ever made. Its fantastic film making, ethical implications, and slight "documentary" feel makes this a must-see for anyone taking this class.]</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-c-dtDnf8U"><u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-c-dtDnf8U</u></a></p> <p>This is from that 70's show where they all sit at the table and talk with the camera in the middle</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Inside Guantanamo</u></a><br/>illustrates this pan movement when showing the viewers the span of the facility both aerial view and inside.</p> |
| 20. Tilt | stationary camera moves<br>up or down    | <p>tilting the camera up and down to get the full body of a person</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCN_uk9agDo"><u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCN_uk9agDo</u></a><br/><a href="#"><u>The Business of Being</u></a></p>   |

			<p><a href="#">Born</a></p> <p>When this trailer for the documentary introduces the hospital building before it gives you statistics it tilts the camera at the hospital building as in giving you a good look at the problem.</p>
21. Zoom	the camera is stationary but the lens moves	<p>makes subjects appear to grow smaller or larger</p> <p><b>(ECB)</b> Focuses on an important subject or speaker</p> <p>Zooming out is sometimes used to show loneliness or emptiness. Also, it gives the viewer context for the character or object in a larger setting (often making the single focus seem small or significant).</p>	<p>This isn't the best example, but about 8 seconds into the actual clip the camera zooms in on them.</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIWmmbbALok">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIWmmbbALok</a></p> <p><b>(ECB)</b> I love <i>The Office</i>. This clip alone shows so many different examples of zooming in. Usually, it's used to show Jim's reaction to something idiotic that Michael says.</p> <p><a href="#">The Office</a></p> <p>I know someone said they were a Kill Bill fan in the class. Tarantino uses zooming in quite a lot, too. Like here: <a href="#">Kill Bill-Uma's eyes</a> and here (about 35 seconds in): <a href="#">Django Unchained</a></p> <p>Zooming out is also used in many movies (Any X-Men movie is one that I've seen it in quite a lot whenever a character experiences loss) but I couldn't find a clip anywhere! This will have to do: <a href="#">Panasonic</a></p>



22. Dolly	the camera itself is moving with the action--on a track, on wheels, or held by hand	<p><b>(ECB)</b> This type of camera movement is used to create a sense of "vertigo" or a feeling of being out of touch with reality within the character. Usually the character is coming to a shocking realization.</p> <p>It was first used in Hitchcock's movie <i>Vertigo</i>, and is alternatively called the "Vertigo Effect" or "Hitchcock Zoom".</p>	<p><b>(ECB)</b> A good example of the Dolly Zoom shot is in this scene from <i>Jaws</i> around two minutes into the clip when Brody realizes that a shark is actually in the water. <a href="#">Jaws</a></p> <p><b>(ECB)</b> Another classic example is the scene from <i>Goodfellas</i>. (This is one of the longest I've seen, so it moves much more slowly than the <i>Jaws</i> clip.) <a href="#">Goodfellas</a></p>
<b>Editing Techniques:</b>	(most common is a "cut" to another image)		
23. Fade	scene fades to black or white —  A type of editing technique in which an image on the screen fades, usually to black.. <b>(JG)</b>	<p>often implies that time has passed</p> <p>Signals the end of a scene or the passing of time. <b>(JG)</b></p> <p><b>(ECB)</b> A lot of what I've been reading suggests that this technique is used sparingly by directors because it signals the end of a story arc.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4Y5Us7-wdA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4Y5Us7-wdA</a> Boy Meets World Fade at 1:45</p> <p>— Big Fish <b>(JG)</b> <a href="http://youtu.be/USMtx8meg4I">http://youtu.be/USMtx8meg4I</a></p> <p><b>(ECB)</b> Another Tarantino film, he uses fade after this intense car crash scene (40 seconds in): <a href="#">Pulp Fiction</a> I believe he uses this technique here because he wants to leave the viewer in suspense about Willis' fate.</p>
24. Dissolve	image slowly fades to (replaces) another image. An image fades in to another	<p>The intended effect is to connect two subjects otherwise not made by the start at (1:45) audience.</p>	<p><a href="#">Dr. Jekyll &amp; Mr. Hyde (spencer Tracy 1941)</a></p>
25. Crosscutting	cut to action that is happening simultaneously	<p>Creates suspense, link between subjects, themes,</p>	<p><a href="#">You've Got Mail (first 1:28 seconds)</a></p>

in different places; also plots.  
called "*parallel editing*"  
Cuts from scene to scene  
in a repetitive manner.

## 26. Flashback

movement into action that shows the viewer more information about a story; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFsDwN51jfc>  
has happened previously, often signified by a change in music, voice-over narration, or a *dissolve*; a "*flash-forward*" leads us ahead in time

helps viewer better understand a character

Fight Club

## 27. Eye-line match

a shot of a person looking, then a cut to what he or she saw, followed by a cut back for a reaction

A good filming tactic to create suspense and build fear, but it's also used in other movies in order for the audience to see what the character's looking at while almost simultaneously seeing the reaction from the character.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iwK2jwqFfk>

This is from The Shining, start it about 2:10 and you'll see Wendy look over at the mirror, you'll see what's on the mirror, then there will immediately be a shot after to establish her reaction.

[The Birds](#) Hitchcock is known for this technique, which is natural considering the way it builds suspense.

**Mise-en-Scene:**

refers to what appears within the frame of the shot, including the costumes, props, acting, lighting, and makeup

highlights some of the elements that a film has in common with the stage.

[Raise the Red Lantern](#) (1991, dir. Zhang Yimou)

Mise-en-scene is present in every movie. Consider in this scene from Coppola's [Marie Antoinette](#) aspects like the period dress, the wedding ring props, the way the church set was decorated, the natural lighting, and the overdone, period hair

and makeup, all  
comprising the  
mise-en-scene.